

## ABSTRACT

(R. Andrews, 8-77)

139 North Potomac Street (site)

circa 1894

Hagerstown

Washington County, Maryland

Tentatively scheduled for demolition, this building is one of the finest examples of late nineteenth century, center city, upper income, domestic architecture in Hagerstown. Built on a high foundation with two and a half stories and a high roof, the house is a Romanesque style structure with Queen Anne elements. The building is an important element in the streetscape, offering whimsical relief from the staid lines of the neighboring structures.

The house was erected about 1894 as the residence of Abraham E. Albert, a businessman and banker. Albert purchased the property in 1893 and retained it until 1920 when it was sold to Fred E. Kraiss, a Hagerstown funeral director. The Kraiss family owned the house until the present owner, the YMCA, acquired it in 1961. The land upon which the house stands is the northern half of Lot No. 40 as delineated on the original plat of the city.

*Demolished Feb/March 1978 by YMCA for parking lot (MRE)*

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-HAG-50  
MAGI # 22 04635504

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Albert-Kraiss House

AND/OR COMMON

139 North Potomac Street

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

139 North Potomac Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER: Vacant

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Young Men's Christian Association of  
Hagerstown, Maryland

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

149 North Potomac Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

Liber #: 375

Folio #: 55

STREET & NUMBER

95 West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust Inventory, No. WA-6010

DATE

— FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Shaw House, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

—EXCELLENT  
 X GOOD  
 —FAIR

—DETERIORATED  
 —RUINS  
 —UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

X UNALTERED  
 —ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

X ORIGINAL SITE  
 —MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Albert-Kraiss House stands at 139 North Potomac Street in Hagerstown, Washington County, and is located on the west side of the street in the northern fourth of the block formed by Franklin and Church Streets, the second block north of Public Square.

The building is a circa 1894, center city, upper income, Romanesque style house with Queen Anne elements. Rectangular in shape, the structure is built on a high foundation abutting the sidewalk and has two and a half stories with a steeply pitched mansard roof along the south and east elevations. The building appears to be structurally sound. The exterior is nearly in original condition. The side exterior walls are painted and laid in Common bond (six to one). The facade is unpainted and laid in Stretcher bond.

The facade is irregular in massing and has a second story projecting bow window which rises into the top story as a conical peaked tower. The bow window has a flower-like corbel base. The facade windows have double-hung, wooden sashes with one-over-one lights and round arches with brick voussoirs. There are three windows on the two levels of the tower, two large windows below the corbel base, and a single window in the doorway. A rectangular window dormer with a gable roof is on the top floor above the door.

The facade foundation wall is constructed of rock-faced rectangular stone and rises up to the sills of the first floor windows. The foundation wall is capped with a Classical caretto molding. A stone belt course with low relief dentils simulating a shallow cornice separates the first and second floors. A band of decorative brickwork (raised diamond shapes) runs below the belt course. A dentiled, wooden cornice with architrave and cyma recta molding runs along the south and east elevations.

The facade doorway has a round arch with brick voussoirs and a rock-faced keystone. Below the round transom is a pair of glazed wooden doors with metal tracery. A later metal marquise supported by two chains hangs over the entrance. The doors are recessed slightly and are reached by a steep step of stone steps.

The mansard roof is concaved with Gothic crockets. It is covered with slate shingles with decorative pattern banding. Two rectangular window gables are located along the south elevation to the west of a brick chimney with decorative brickwork. The dormer roofs are also concave shaped. A ball finial sitting on a high square base is located in the northeast corner at the base of the roof.

A two and a half story round tower projects from the southwest corner of the building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      circa 1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tentatively scheduled for demolition, this building is one of the finest examples of late nineteenth century, center city, upper income, domestic architecture in Hagerstown. Built on a high foundation with two and a half stories and a high roof, the house is a Romanesque style structure with Queen Anne elements. The building is an important element in the streetscape, offering whimsical relief from the staid lines of the neighboring structures.

The house was erected about 1894 as the residence of Abraham E. Albert (1858-1934), a businessman and banker. Albert purchased the property in 1893 (Deed Book 101, p. 343) and retained it until 1920 when it was sold to Fred W. Kraiss, a Hagerstown funeral director (Deed Book 159, p. 384). The Kraiss family owned the house until the present owner, the YMCA, acquired it in 1961. The land upon which the house stands is the northern half of Lot No. 40 as delineated on the original plat of the city.

Abraham Albert was a shoemaker in early years with shoemaking shops on South Potomac Street and Public Square before opening a retail shoe business. Between 1892 and 1895, he operated a wholesale liquor business in Hagerstown. A Republican, Albert was elected a County Commissioner in 1899 and served as President for two years. He was also director of several local companies (Williams, II, 1054-1055).

Kraiss was issued a permit for erecting a 5' x 8' "copper clad marquise" in 1929 (Building Inspector's Office).

Now vacant, the house was used in recent years as a Mormon Temple. It is scheduled for demolition for future expansion of "Y" facilities.

NOTE: William Morgan noted in his report (1970) the similarity of the building to those designed by Wilson Eyre, the Philadelphia architect.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Office of the Building Inspector, City of Hagerstown, City Hall, Hagerstown, Maryland. Files.

Morgan, William. Notes on file at Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.

Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (continued above)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

The property measures approximately 42' x 240'.

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Preservation Consultant (mbe)

ORGANIZATION

City of Hagerstown

DATE

August 16, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

TELEPHONE

(301) 790-3200

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Md. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 139 North Potomac Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			
STATE Maryland		CODE	COUNTY: Washington
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP	STATUS
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bath <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>
			Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
			Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>			
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>			
Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNERS NAME:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: city lot			
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

8334

## 7. DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

(Check One)  
 Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed ☐

## INTEGRITY

(Check One)  
 Altered ☐ Unaltered ☒ Moved ☐ Original Site ☒

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

139 North Potomac Street is presently a Mormon temple, however, it was probably built as a private residence, or maybe for offices, etc. Built on a high stone base, 139 is a 3 storey brick house with the top storey actually part of a mansard roof. The most conspicuous feature of the house is the projecting bow window-tower that appears to grow out of the wall just below the second storey (it has a flower-like corbel base seemingly supporting it) and continues up through the mansard roof (where it is still red brick), culminating in a banded, slate conical peak. The front facade windows have rounded heads with brick voussoirs and fairly simple cornices between first and second storeys, at main roof level, and at the base of the tower peak. A later metal marquee hangs suspended over the entrance, making the recessed entrance vestibule seem even deeper.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☐20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☒

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

c1880s [?]

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐architectureAgriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐townscapeArt ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐ition ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Not unlike the almost fanciful urban houses of the Philadelphia architect, Wilson Eyre, 139 North Potomac Street is a late Romanesque Revival style house with Queen Anne elements. A definite addition to the streetscape of this section of North Potomac, 139's tower echoes that on the Firehouse further down the block [105 North Potomac] and acts as a foil for the slightly set back and large Colonial Revival YMCA next door.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0 0
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0 0
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0 0
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0 0

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William Morgan	
ORGANIZATION: Department of Art History	DATE: June 9, 1970
STREET AND NUMBER: University of Delaware	
CITY OR TOWN: Newark	STATE: Delaware

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

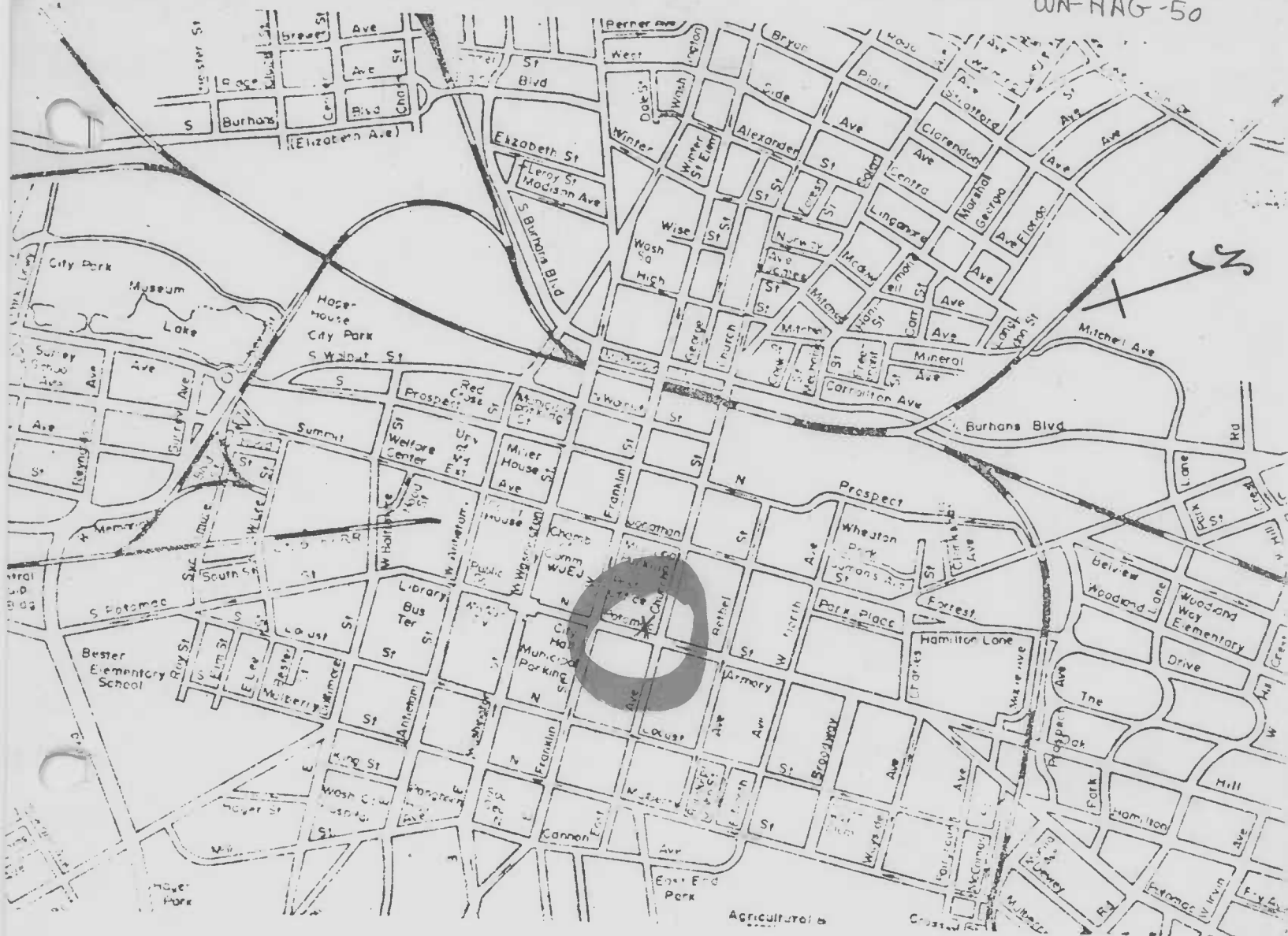
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_



SITE: 139 North Potomac Street  
Hagerstown  
Washington County, Maryland

map: City of Hagerstown,  
Washington County, Md.  
City Engineering Dept.  
July, 1970  
scale 1"=1200'

139 N. Potomac St



139 North Potomac St  
Albert - Kraiss House  
Hagerstown  
Washington Co., Md.

SE view

October, 1975

RONALD L. ANDREWS



Albert-Kraiss House  
139 North Potomac St  
Hagerstown  
Washington Co., Md.

East elevation, doorway detail

October, 1975

RONALD L. ANDREWS



Albert-Kraiss House  
139 North Potomac St  
Hagerstown  
Washington Co, Md.

East elevation, roof line detail  
October, 1975

RONALD L. ANDREWS





Albert-Kraiss House  
139 North Potomac St  
Hagerstown  
Washington Co, Md.

East elevations, window detail

October 1975

RONALD L. ANDREWS